

## Daniel and Canonization

SS 909 / HT 909

6/1/06

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## Today

- Daniel
- Scripture and Canonization
  - Process
  - Lists
  - Texts
- Lectionary Assignment – Recap
  - Info on Ritual assignment next week

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## Daniel

- Set in Babylon, written mid-2nd BCE
- Maybe named after mythic wise man Danel
- Included with Kethuvim, not prophets
- 1-6 - Stories of persecution, prophecies
- 7-12 - Four Prophetic / Historical visions
  - Depicts various kingdoms as animals
  - Ch. 12 - promise of resurrection, judgment

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## The Message of Apocalyptic

- The righteous suffer, but they will be rewarded and evildoers will be punished
- God has a plan
- Future reward, not in this life - Resurrection
- Hope for then and now
  - But how do we know when end comes?
  - So, remain faithful!

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## Apocalyptic - Apocryphal 2

- 2 Esdras (4 Ezra)
  - Written 100 CE [after 2nd temple destroyed]
  - Set in Babylon 6th century BCE [symbols!]
  - Theodicy - explanation of God's justice
    - How can a just God allow evil?
  - Visions of future and redemption
  - Ezra's authorship of Hebrew Bible, Apocrypha

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## Apocalyptic works - Non-canon

- 1 Enoch - Jewish apocalypticism
  - Pre-history, Coming Messiah (Son of Man)
  - Dreams, exhortation to faithfulness
  - Inspired rebellions, Christian apocalypticism
- 2 Enoch - Heavenly journey
  - Parallels to Christian teachings on afterlife
- Sibylline Oracles - combines Greek, Roman, Jewish thought

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### So what?

- Alexander brought Greek ideas - Jews faced assimilation or martyrdom
- Apocrypha and Pseudepigrapha offer window into world of early Judaism - the different forms and views that developed as they faced new challenges
- Revisions of Biblical and non-canonical texts show process of change, adaptation

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### Canonization

- How reach consensus?
  - Helps? Hindrances?
- What criteria? How develop?

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### HB/LXX/OT

- Hebrew Bible
- Septuagint
- Old Testament
- Apocrypha (LXX-HB=Apocrypha)

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## Survey of Texts

- Aristeas / BT Megilla 9a-b
- Schiffman pp. 517-522
  - Written and Oral Law
- Eccl. 12:12
  - Of anything beyond these my child, beware.  
Of making many books there is no end
- Qoh. Rab. 12:12 (commentary on Eccl.)
  - More than 24 books = confusion

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## Process / Events?

- Many dates unclear
- Hebrew Versions
- Septuagint
- Dead Sea Scrolls
- “Council” at Jamnia? Or Survival of fittest?

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## Issues (Anchor Bible Dictionary I:837-852)

- Canon as context
- Canon and One God
- Canon and (Hi)story
- Torah and Prophets
- One God and (Hi)story
- One God and Hagiographa

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## Lectionary Reflection

- What texts? Lectionary season?
- Connections?
- Implied Messages?
- New ways of reading?

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## Next time (June 6)

- Jewish Groups & Dead Sea Scrolls
- Read VanderKam 147-192
- Read Schiffman 266-300, 354-368
- Look for perspectives of different groups, ways they read the Bible

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